Closure of industrial units polluting rivers

1900. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to close down industrial units which discharge effluents into rivers directly unless they took rectification measures within three months; and

(b) if so, the names of such units State and Territory-wise with tentative date of recetification measures to be undertaken within three months?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has issued direction on 14.7.97 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to all State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to take action against defaulting industries for ensuring effluent treatment within 3 months, failing which closure notices shall be issued against the defaulting industries. Central Pollution Control Board will inform state-wise details of identified grossly polluting industries to the Ministry.

Work Measurement Study of CPCB

1901. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3708 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of Institute of Applied Manpower Research relating to Work Measurement Study of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether the proposals for creation of posts received from CPCB have since been cleared and if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when these are proposed to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

The salient features of the report are, inter alia:

— Changes in the organisational structure.

— Rearranging available manpower.

— Review existing promotional avenues vis-a-vis required modifications.

— Assess infrastructural requirements keeping in view the future activities.

— Creation of additional posts for enhancing scientific and technical capability as also strengthening of legal and administrative infrastructure.

(b) The proposals for creation of posts would be considered by the Government after the receipt of the recommendations of the CPCB on the Report.

Illegal Rhino Horn Trade

1902. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new emerging centres in Siliguri, Dimapur and Guwahati for the international Syndicate engaged in the clandestine trade in rhino horns; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to identify the links to rhino poaching, to strengthen the rhino conservation measures and to end the illegal rhino horn trade?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following measures have been taken in this regard.

(i) A National Coordination Committee has been set-up, comprising representatives of various enforcement organisations such as Police, Revenue Intelligence, Customs, CBI, ITBP, BSF etc. to facilitate greater interdepartmental cooperation in the control of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. In West Bengal, 2 Coordination Committees have been set up for Calcutta and North Bengal, which meet regularly and exchange information and intelligence and take coordinated action. The Govt. of Assam has also been asked to set up a similar coordination mechanism.

(ii) Training is being imparted to the personnel of various enforcement agencies in wildlife law enforcement at the Centre and in West Bengal.

(iii) In Assam, patrolling has been intensified to prevent poaching and constant vigil is being kept against clandestine trade in rhino horns, through liaison with the police and custom authorities.

(iv) A sub-regional office of wildlife preservation, under this Ministry, has been opened at Guwahati, specifically to exercie vigilance against illegal trade in different market and transit points in the region, in coordination with the State Wildlife authorities and other enforcement agencies.

(v) Whenever cases of illegal trade in rhino horn are detected, they are investigated in details to unearth their various linkages to poaching and smuggling.

(vi) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation.

(vii) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof. Under the provisions of the convention, rhino is placed under Apendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.

(viii) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also rehahilitating them in their erstwhile habitat a programme for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

(ix) A network of 5 Wildlife sanctuaries and 4 national parks has been set up conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance to provided by the Central government for development of these national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.

(x) There is a scheme for payment of rewards to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.

Condition of Delhi Zoo

1903. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th July, 1997 under the caption "Delhi Zoo suffers from filth, neglect";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;